

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A fastening element for plastic containers, said fastening element comprising a plurality of first bushings, each having a longitudinal axis, interconnected by connecting bridges, the connecting bridges each defining a planar axis that is essentially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the first bushings.
2. (Original) The fastening element of claim 1, wherein the bushings are made of the same material as the connecting bridges connecting the bushings.
3. (Original) The fastening element of claim 1, wherein the bushings and connecting bridges are made of metal, steel, cast metal, cast iron, cast aluminum or cast magnesium.
4. (Original) The fastening element of claim 1, wherein the first bushings and the connecting bridges are made of metal or steel, and the fastening element is formed as a single piece, or the first bushings and the connecting bridges are joined by welding.
5. (Original) The fastening element of claim 1, wherein the connecting bridges are formed as a metal sheet.
6. (Withdrawn) The fastening element of claim 1, wherein the connecting bridges have holes.
7. (Cancelled) The fastening element of claim 5, wherein the width of the metal sheet is essentially parallel to the longitudinal axes of the first bushings.
8. (Original) The fastening element of claim 5, wherein the metal sheet is beaded or has an L-shaped cross-section.

9. (Withdrawn) The fastening element of claim 1, wherein additional elements with fastening function are arranged thereon, with second bushings being arranged on said additional elements.
10. (Currently Amended) A plastic container for liquids comprising comprising an opening, a flange being formed along at least a portion of the periphery of the opening, said flange having recesses extending through the thickness of the flange to accommodate said first bushings of the fastening element according to claim 1, wherein the upper edge of said connecting bridge bridges or metal sheet of the fastening element making makes accurate accurately fitting and positive contact at the lower edge of the flange following attachment of the fastening element to the plastic container.
11. (Original) The plastic container of claim 10, wherein said plastic container is an engine oil pan or a transmission oil pan.
12. (Currently Amended) A fastening system for liquid-proof flanging or attachment of plastic containers for liquids, said fastening system comprising a fastening element having a plurality of first bushings each having a longitudinal axis, interconnected by connecting bridges each defining a planar axis that is parallel to the longitudinal axes of the first bushings, and a flange.
13. (Original) The fastening system of claim 12, wherein the flange is arranged along at least a portion of the periphery of an opening of the plastic container.
14. (Original) The fastening system of claim 12, wherein the flange has recesses extending through the thickness of the flange to accommodate said first bushings of the fastening element.
15. (Original) The fastening system of claim 12, wherein following attachment of the fastening element to the plastic container, the connecting bridge of the fastening element makes accurately fitting and positive contact at the lower edge of the flange.

16. (Original) The fastening system of claim 12, wherein the bushings are made of the same material as the connecting bridges connecting the bushings.
17. (Original) The fastening system of claim 12, wherein the bushings and the connecting bridges are made of metal, steel, cast metal, cast iron, cast aluminum or cast magnesium.
18. (Currently Amended) The fastening system of claim 12, wherein the first bushings and the connecting bridges are made of metal, ~~preferably steel~~, and that the fastening element is formed as a single piece, or the first bushings and the connecting bridges are joined by welding.
19. (Original) The fastening system of claim 12, wherein the connecting bridges are in the form of a metal sheet or sheet steel.
20. (Withdrawn) The fastening system of claim 12, wherein the connecting bridges have holes.
21. (Original) The fastening system of claim 19, wherein the width of the metal sheet is essentially parallel to the longitudinal axes of the first bushings.
22. (Original) The fastening system of claim 19, wherein the metal sheet is beaded or has an L-shaped cross-section.
23. (Withdrawn) The fastening system of claim 12, wherein additional elements with fastening function are arranged thereon, with second bushings preferably being arranged on said additional elements.
24. (Original) The fastening system of claim 12, wherein the plastic container is an engine oil pan or a transmission oil pan.
25. (Currently Amended) A fastening element for liquid-proof fastening of plastic containers for liquids to other component parts, the fastening element being present in the form of a support or connecting bridge to receive and arrange a plurality of first bushings, the

fastening element comprising bushing-receiving elements allowing insertion of bushings, the fastening element being adapted so as to ~~make~~ accurately fitting-fit and positive contact at the lower edge of a flange of an opening of the plastic container after attachment, the fastening element allowing insertion of bushings into bushing-receiving elements of the fastening element and thereafter into bushing-receiving elements of the flange.

26. (Original) The fastening element of claim 25, wherein the bushing-receiving elements of the fastening element are through-holes or at least partial enclosures.
27. (Original) The fastening element of claim 25, wherein the fastening element is made of metal, steel, cast metal, cast iron, cast aluminum or cast magnesium.
28. (Original) The fastening element of claim 25, wherein the fastening element is in the form of a metal sheet or sheet steel.
29. (Withdrawn) The fastening element of claim 25, wherein the connecting bridges have holes.
30. (Currently Amended) The fastening element of claim 28, wherein the ~~width of the~~ metal sheet ~~is~~ defines a plane essentially parallel to the longitudinal axes of the first bushings ~~bushing-receiving elements~~.
31. (Original) The fastening element of claim 28, wherein the metal sheet is beaded or has an L-shaped cross-section.
32. (Withdrawn) The fastening element of claim 25, wherein additional elements with fastening function are arranged thereon, with second bushings preferably being arranged on said additional elements.
33. (Currently Amended) A fastening system comprising at least one fastening element according to claim 25 and bushings having a widened portion on the outside thereof, the bushings allowing ~~accurately~~ accurate fitting and positive insertion thereof into the

U.S. Serial No.: 10/823,876

Title: "Fastening Element and Fastening System for Plastic Containers"

Filed: April 14, 2004

Response to Office Action of November 14, 2005

Page 7 of 11

bushing-receiving elements of the fastening element, and the widened portion of the bushings preventing slipping of the bushings through the bushing-receiving elements of the fastening element.